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NSC BRIEFING

TAIWAN STRAIT

- I. No important military developments since last briefing.
- II. Vigorous Nationalist efforts have greatly improved Chinese supply picture.
 - A. As example, from 1 to 6 October (before cease-fire) 2,507 tons delivered. From 7 to 13 October (after cease-fire) 21,477 tons delivered. (Total tonnage delivered in whole month of September only 3,400). Massive deliveries continuing.
 1. Six more eight-inch howitzers have been landed. (Total of 12 now there.)
 - B. US observers report that Nationalists have demonstrated surprising initiative, energy, and good control in supply operations since cease-fire.
- III. On political front, we have noted that Communist China has recently somewhat moderated its statements which implied a direct military challenge to US.
 - A. In contrast to Peiping People's Daily warning of 9 September that US convoying "will result in armed clashes with China at any moment." Present line merely calls for voluntary withdrawal of US convoys.
 - B. Propaganda to mainland populace, too, has been considerably moderated.

25X1



2. Slogan "American troops get out of Taiwan" seen only once, and there were none of the posters depicting UN troops being pushed out of Taiwan which were familiar on all Peiping streets in recent weeks.

25X6

3. "Paper tiger" image of UN, prominent in recent months, has virtually disappeared as theme.

C. A Chinese Communist journalist who was on mainland during September reported his general impression that Communists are anxious to proceed with domestic consolidation and "preferred negotiations and maneuvers to large-scale war."